

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EUR-12 IO-10 PC-01 AID-05 OMB-01 OPR-01

SCCT-01 /081 W

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R 051424Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2196

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 14490

1. MEMBERS OF SELF-DESCRIBED ADVANCE PARTY, WEARING 1ST DIVISON
SHOULDER PATCHES TOLD US SOURCES IN MASSAWA THAT THEY WERE SPEAR-
HEADING 3,000 MAN FORCE COMING NORTH.

2. DAO AND EMBASSY CHECKING CANADIAN EMBASSY REPORT THAT CANADIAN
PILOT SIGHTED LARGE MILITARY FORCE ON DESSIE-ASMARA ROAD JUST
NORTH OF TIGRE BORDER. COMMENT: EVEN IF REPORT PROVES ACCURATE,
IT IS STILL UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS FORCE WILL BE DEPLOYED IN TIGRE
OR ERITREA. END COMMENT.

3. EMBASSY HAS REPORT THAT ERITREAN LABOR FORCE AT MASSAWA
NAVAL BASE COOLING TOWARDS ETHIOPIAN NAVY PERSONNEL. WORKERS
APPARENTLY FEAR THAT SINCE PMAC HAS OPTED FOR MILITARY SOLUTION
IN ERITREA, THEY MAY BE CAUGHT IN MIDDLE IN CONFRONTATION BETWEEN
REGULARS AND ELF. SAME SOURCE REPORTS NAVY PERSONNEL INCREASINGLY
WORRIED ABOUT THEIR VULNERABILITY TO ELF ATTACK.

COMMENT: WE WOULD ASSUME THAT GENERAL UNEASINESS AND FEAR OF
ELF REACTION GROWING THROUGHOUT DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT AMONG ALL
PERSONNEL, CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, ERITREAN AND NON-ERITREAN.

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IF SO, PRESSURES ON PMAC FOR DEFINITIVE ACTION WILL MOUNT WHILE

UNITY AND COORDINATION TO MAKE ACTION EFFECTIVE WILL BE WEAKENED.

WYMAN

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